

History of Assistance Dogs Europe (ADEu)

2000 First get together of 13 programmes from 7 European countries in Groesbeek, the Netherlands, hosted by Stichting Soho (since 2001 Hulphond Nederland). Workshops with Bonnie Bergin of the Assistance Dog Institute, California (since 2004 Bergin University of Canine Studies)
Motion approved: to set up a European association of assistance dog schools.

Official language to be English .

Key-issues: exchange, standards, awareness and access, financial support, cooperation with Assistance Dogs International (ADI).

2001 Second Conference in Grône, Switzerland, hosted by Association Le Copain; 24 programmes from 11 European countries present.
Presentation about the mission, background, standards ADI, including a commitment from the ADI Board to consider a federal structure with regional chapters.

5 Steering Groups set up

- Operations and Technique
- Organisation
- Funding and Public Relations
- Standards and Access
- 2002 Conference

Pet Night 2001, 03 October 2001, Strasbourg, France - Cooperation with Fédération Européenne de la Santé Animale (FEDESA, European Federation of Animal Health) to be present at an event with Members of the European Parliament (MEP's). Aimed at raising the awareness of MEP's of the change dogs can make in people's life.

2002 Third Conference in Paris, France, hosted by ANECAH; 24 programmes of 13 European countries were present.

Resolutions:

1. Conference resolves to call our new organisation **Assistance Dogs Europe**. The shortened form will be ADEu.
2. Conference approves the draft constitution submitted to the business meeting on Sunday 27th of October, subject to any minor changes, to be agreed by the Interim Board, required to meet the terms of registration.
3. Conference resolves to register Assistance Dogs Europe in Belgium.
4. Conference resolves to elect at the 2002 conference in Paris an Interim Board of seven members for one year. The election will take place in accordance with the constitution.
5. Conference resolves to set affiliation fees for Assistance Dogs Europe the following levels: 50 –100 Euros, depending of the financial situation of the organisation.

6. Conference resolves that the financial year for Assistance Dogs Europe shall be the calendar year.
7. Conference resolves to set up a bank account for Assistance Dogs Europe. All transactions to be countersigned by at least two members of the Board.

Letter of ADI expressing the hope for future cooperation

First draft of ADEu Statutes agreed..

First draft of ADEU Standards derived from the ADI standards agreed.

Website launched: www.assistancedogseurope.info

2nd Pet Night, 1st of October 2002, Brussels, cooperation with FEDESA.

2003 Fourth ADEu Conference in Berlin, Germany, hosted by Tierische Leistung and Hunde für Handicaps; 28 programmes from 13 countries were present.

ADEu Statutes - no confirmation from the Belgian government.

Logo developed and launched.

Membership proposal approved.

Minimum Standards for Assistance Dogs presented and approved

ADI-Proposal to change the ADI structure towards a structure with regional Boards was discussed.

2004 Fifth ADEu Conference in Westende, Belgium, hosted by Hachiko; 30 programmes from 15 countries were present.

Formal approval of several **Standards**.

Formal approval of **Accreditation Procedure**.

Discussion about a **European harness**.

Relationship ADEu ← → ADI discussed.

2005 Sixth ADEu Conference in Salzburg, Austria, hosted by Partner-Hunde Österreich;

35 programmes of 19 countries were present.

Started work to identify European Access Legislation .

Proposal of European harness discussed.

ADEu merge with ADI; it was proposed to postpone the decision to go ahead with the merge-process for one year. During this time a task force group with members from ADEu and ADI was formed to further investigate all unclear and outstanding issues and report to 2006 conference.

October 2005 – Five European Programmes passed ADI accreditation.

2006 Seventh ADEu Conference in Malmö, Sweden, hosted by Svenska Service och Signalthundsförbundet; 31 programmes from 17 countries were present.

Resolution:

- The members of Assistance Dogs Europe, ADEu, agree to create a new international organisation together with their colleagues in Assistance Dogs North America, Assistance Dogs Australia/New Zealand and Assistance Dogs Asia. In doing so we will take forward the assistance dogs' movement onto a worldwide stage as laid out in the

paper entitled "Creating an International Structure for the Assistance Dog Movement" dated August 2006. To take effect from 30th January 2007.

First European assessors appointed and trained.

First European Newsletter produced.

www.assistancedogseurope.org site launched.

2007 Eighth ADEu Conference (30th January) in Bad Nauheim, Germany, hosted by VITA e.V.. 45 programmes from 21 countries, worldwide were present.

Proposal for European harness rejected.

October 2007 – First Accreditation of a European Programme through European Accreditation Procedure.

21st November 2007 Third Pet Night, Brussels; cooperation with International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH).

Official contact with European Guide Dog Forum (EGDF).

2008 20th ADI Conference in London, UK, hosted by The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and held jointly with IGDF (half day shared).

Discussion about finances, sponsoring and raising membership fees.

October 2008 – ADEu Trainers Workshop: "Multi-species ADEu training camp", in Elce, Spain.

2009 Ninth ADEu Conference in Umag, Croatia, hosted by Croatian Guide Dog and Mobility Association; 30 programmes from 18 countries were present

ADI-structure outlined.

Motions approved:

- ADEu to be a legal entity.
- From 2009, there should be a fixed fee for programs who wish to be accredited to cover the costs, including assessor expenses. The fee should be reviewed by the members every two years.
- Following discussion it was proposed that the fee be 650 Euros, and be in line with the fee paid by ADI members worldwide.
- ADEu supports the idea of having one European assistance dog access sticker and will work with other interested groups, including the European Guide Dog Federation to achieve that as soon as possible.
- We want a clear terminology to be used, always and everywhere, by ADEu and its members, and propose this to ADI.

Motions withdrawn:

- We want the bylaws of ADEu as agreed by the European associations to be official and published.
- We want the structure of the international organization to be as agreed in Malmö and Salzburg. Assistance Dogs International (worldwide federation) with Regional chapters: ADINA, ADEu, ANZAD, AD Asia, AD Latin America. Every association stays member of its regional chapter, pays its memberships fee to its chapter. The regional chapters

unite in ADI. Each chapter pays its fee to ADI in ratio to the total number of clients or to the number of member association.

February 11th 2009 Fourth Pet Night, Brussels, in cooperation with IFAH.
(International Federation for Animal Health)

May 2009 – ADEu Trainers Workshop: “It’s all about locomotion”, in Herpen, the Netherlands.

July 2009 – European Access Legislation on ADEu website
Cards available in 16 European languages to explain the meaning of an assistance dog.

26th -27th of October 2009 – Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) Task Force set up.

2010 21st ADI Conference in Toronto, Canada, hosted by Dog Guides Canada;

37 programmes from 8 countries were been present

Motions approved:

- That from 1st January 2011, Candidates should have a maximum of 7 years to achieve accreditation and become Members of ADI. During that time, Candidates must show clear evidence that they are working towards achieving accreditation and at a minimum must undertake the following to retain Candidate status.
- Existing Full Members who do not attempt accreditation before December 31st 2010 will revert to Candidate status on 1st January 2011 and will be given until 31st December 2012 to achieve accreditation otherwise they will be set free from ADI. They must wait 2 years before they can apply for candidate status.
- Existing candidates still have 7 years minus the number of years they have already been a candidate (provisional member) to achieve accreditation. If a candidate (provisional member) does not attempt to become accredited within the 7 years they will be set free from ADI. They must wait 2 years before they can apply to become a candidate.

February 24th 2010 Fifth Pet Night, Brussels, in cooperation with IFAH.
(International Federation for Animal Health)

May 2010 – ADEu Trainers Workshop: “Epilepsy and Seizure dogs”, in Gent, Belgium. 12 programmes from 10 countries were present.

2011 Tenth ADEu Conference in Berg en Dal, the Netherlands, hosted by the Dutch Programmes; 29 programmes from 14 countries were present.

ADEu Statutes: the draft bylaws were unanimously agreed in a vote and will be submitted to the Dutch Notary Public for a final check.

We will incorporate as an international association in the Netherlands.

February 2nd 2011, Sixth Pet Night, Brussels; cooperation with IFAH.
(International Federation for Animal Health)

Start of Unification of Accreditation Standards and Procedure – bringing ADEu and ADI together.

2012 January 23rd 2012, ADEu Statutes filed in the Netherlands
KvK-nummer 54491223 - RSIN 851325853 - SBI-code 94996

22nd ADI Conference in Barcelona, Spain, hosted by ASKAL, Fundació Bocálan and AdAS; 57 programmes from 18 countries across the world were present. Included a joint session with the **Canine Science Forum**.
ADI Discussion: “What is an Assistance Dog?” Tasks, Terminology, Awareness-colours, Access label, etcetera.

Motions approved:

- Standards for certification of owner / private trainer trained assistance dog teams.
- Fees proposal for ADI Programmes for the year 2013.
- Fees proposal for upcoming years will be reviewed, and designed with more tears.

Motions withdrawn:

- Terminology of Assistance Dogs, will be discussed on Sunday 29th July.
- Colours and harness of Assistance Dogs, have been rejected in 2007.
- Structure ADI / ADEu, see 2009 “ADI structure outlined”.
- Prevent Possible Proliferation of Unprofessional Organisations.
- Membership Fees, will be discussed on Sunday 29th of July.
- ADEu Statutes, subject to discussion.

Animal Assisted Intervention International (AII) presented and received with great enthusiasm by the members.

February 29th 2012, Seventh Pet Night, Brussels; cooperation with IFAH
Official exchange of officers between ADEu and **European Guide Dog Federation (EGDF)**.

October 2012 – New ADI website launched.

2013 11th ADEu Conference in Belgium, hosted by **Dyadis**
Joint session with AII (launch in Europe)
February 20th 2013, Eighth Pet Night, Brussels; cooperation with IFAH

2014 23rd ADI Conference in Denver
Joint session with AII (launch in North America)
February 12th 2014, Ninth Pet Night, Brussels; cooperation with IFAH

2016 24th ADI Conference organised by ADEu in Prague (Czech Republic)
hosted by Helppees.
Joint session with AII.

- 2017** **ADEu Symposium** in Vienna
Joint session with AAll
ADEu members play and active part in setting up CEN 452 – Assistance Dogs
- 2018** **25th ADI Conference** in Minneapolis
ADEu members play an active part in CEN 452 working groups
- 2019** **ADEU Members Meeting** in Delft to agree priorities for the forthcoming year.
26th ADI Conference in Indianapolis
ADEu members play an active part in CEN 452 working groups